

Fig. 4

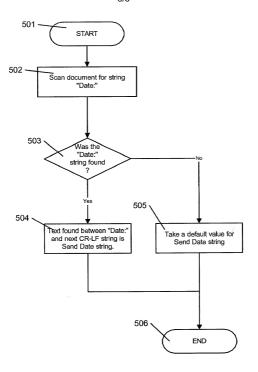
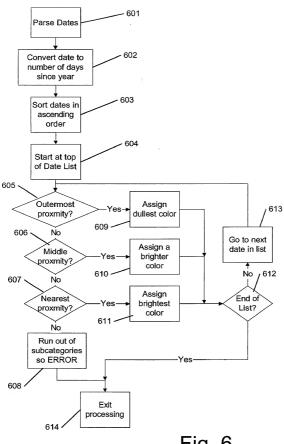
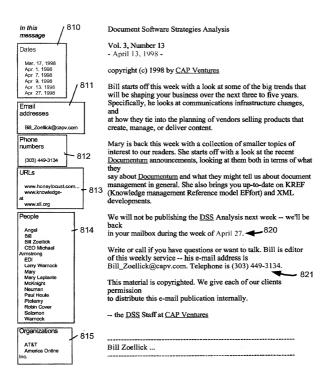


Fig. 5



<u>Fig. 6</u>



<u>Fig. 7A</u>

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Content and Connectivity

I want to use the word "content" in a very general sense. Not just as in "content management" -- but as a general term for all the "stuff" that your products manage -- scanned images, text, web pages.

tables, XML, whatever. Next week we can go back to using the word

in its more restricted form, having to do with "web stuff" -- but this week I need it as a big, general term.

Virtually all of our vendor clients sell software that focuses on content in some way -- authoring it, managing it, finding it, converting it, viewing it.. Consequently, we typically write to you about matters that relate to content -- XML for example.

But – and here is the point of this week's essay – looking ONLY at content keeps you from seeing the bigger picture and understanding what is behind all of this CHANGE in the way we handle and use content. Said another way: understanding the forces that are driving

change in our content-focused businesses requires looking beyond

WHY "CAUSE" IS IMPORTANT

That all sounds pretty abstract, and so it's worth spending some time

to explain why this is important. It has to do with predicting future developments. If you could identify the two or three things that were really driving all of the big, long term changes in the ways businesses are using content, then you'd be in a better position

to analyze and track these key "drivers" and make some educated guesses about what the next change will be, and maybe even when it

might happen.

For example, I have recently been spending a lot of time looking at the changes in the markets for electronically based transactions the new style of EDI that uses web-based technologies. I have been

trying to answer questions like, "Just how fast will paper based

Fig. 7B